

**SENATE RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_**

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**DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION**

A SENATE RESOLUTION recognizing the pervasiveness of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease and urging the Indiana State Department of Health to classify it as a "chronic disease" in Indiana.

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**BECKER**

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\_\_\_\_\_, read first time and referred to Committee on

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## SENATE RESOLUTION

MADAM PRESIDENT:

I offer the following resolution and move its adoption:

1       A SENATE RESOLUTION recognizing the pervasiveness  
2 of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease and urging the  
3 Indiana State Department of Health to classify it as a "chronic  
4 disease" in Indiana.

5       *Whereas, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)*  
6 *is an umbrella term used to describe a group of progressive*  
7 *lung diseases, including emphysema and chronic bronchitis,*  
8 *that restrict air flow, cause trouble breathing, and grow worse*  
9 *over time;*

10       *Whereas, Tobacco use is the primary cause of COPD in the*  
11 *United States, but COPD can also be caused by genetic*  
12 *predisposition and air pollutants such as secondhand smoke*  
13 *and certain types of fuels and gases;*

14       *Whereas, The symptoms of COPD include chronic cough,*  
15 *chronic phlegm production, shortness of breath during normal*  
16 *activities, the inability to take a deep breath, and wheezing, and*  
17 *the lung damage caused over time is irreversible;*

18       *Whereas, While there is no cure for COPD, treatment can*  
19 *help greatly improve an individual's quality of life, yet many*



1 *individuals mistake their symptoms for normal aging and wait*  
 2 *to receive treatments until the conditions are severe and more*  
 3 *difficult to manage;*

4 *Whereas, Indiana specifically ranked in the highest range*  
 5 *of all of the states in a 2011 survey, with 8.3% of Indiana*  
 6 *residents having been told by a health care professional that*  
 7 *they have COPD;*

8 *Whereas, Concerted public outreach efforts such as a*  
 9 *DRIVE4COPD and by the Indiana State Department of Health*  
 10 *classifying COPD as a “chronic disease” on the “chronic*  
 11 *disease registry” could lead to the high number of Hoosiers*  
 12 *currently diagnosed with COPD having better resources at*  
 13 *their disposal, as well as more people being diagnosed early on*  
 14 *and an overall healthier state; and*

15 *Whereas, The state of Indiana in its effort to address*  
 16 *serious and chronic health conditions could also seek out and*  
 17 *apply for funding and grants available to help provide for*  
 18 *greater public awareness and treatment for COPD: Therefore,*

19 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the*  
 20 *General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

21 SECTION 1. That the Indiana Senate recognizes the  
 22 pervasiveness of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease and urges the  
 23 Indiana State Department of Health to classify it as a “chronic disease”  
 24 in Indiana.

25 SECTION 2. The Secretary of the Senate is hereby directed to  
 26 transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Commissioner of the Indiana  
 27 State Department of Health, Dr. William C. VanNess, II.

